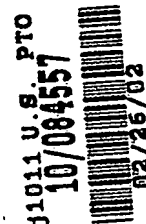


PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Minoru Tsuruta	Examiner:	Unassigned
Serial No:	To be assigned	Art Unit:	Unassigned
Filed:	Herewith	Docket:	15226
For:	MEDICAL RETRIEVAL INSTRUMENT	Dated:	February 26, 2002



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

Ex Initial

CS

1. Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open Publication No. 1-172813, dated December 7, 1989 together with an English language abstract;

CS

2. German Patent Application No. DE 33 13 895 A1, dated October 25, 1984 together with an English language abstract;

~~3. U.S. Patent No. 5,792,145, dated August 11, 1998, issued to Bates et al.;~~

Examiner: Charles San

Date Considered: 10/26/06

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office-to-Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 26, 2002.

Dated: February 26, 2002

Mishelle Mustafa
Mishelle Mustafa

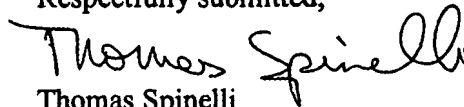
~~4. U.S. Patent No. 5,064,428, dated November 12, 1991, issued to Cope et al.;
and~~

~~5. U.S. Patent No. 6,174,318 B1, dated January 16, 2001, issued to Bates et al.~~

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references. Reference 1
has been cited in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in
accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

TS:cm